

Fore River Bridge  
Route 3A spanning the Fore River  
Weymouth  
Norfolk County  
Massachusetts

HABS - MA-36

HAER  
MASS,  
11-WEYMO,  
5-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MA-36

FORE RIVER BRIDGE

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Date: 1936

Location: Route 3A spanning the Fore River, Weymouth, Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

Owner: Massachusetts Dept. of Public Works.

Builder: Massachusetts Dept. of Public Works.  
George H. Delano, Chief Engineer.  
Desmond & Lord, Architectural Consultants.

Significance: Route 3A has been the main route to the South Shore, ever since the Hingham and Quincy Bridge and Turnpike Corporation was formed in 1808. A swing bridge was built here in 1901-1902, but proved a bottleneck, both to shipping, with the shipyard upstream, and to extensive South Shore traffic. The new bridge, with a total length of 2,216 feet, and a 60 foot roadway, included a 175-foot draw span, of the double leaf rolling lift type, designed to open or close in one and a half minutes. It was designed and built by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works under the direction of George Delano, Chief Engineer, and George Harkness, Bridge Engineer. Desmond and Lord were consulting architects responsible for the ornamental Art-Deco appearance of the pylons, which were faced in granite and trimmed with copper detailing. The bridge won an Honorable Mention in 1936 from the American Institute of Steel Engineers.

Transmitted by: Dan Clement, 1984. Historical Information written by Peter Stott.